

The Brethren Evangelist,

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ORGANIZED EFFORT.

In this age of practical progress, it is useless to attempt anything great without thorough organization. Capital and labor have organized for the protection of their respective interests. The editor of the *Arena* has lately effected an organization for the Union of Practical Progress, the purpose of which is to better the condition of the poor and the laboring classes, not by bestowing charities promiscuously, but by so changing the condition and environments that they can help themselves. We have even heard of an organization of *tramps* in New York City, for what purpose it is hard to say. The most careless reader must have observed how completely and perfectly human society is organized for the accomplishment of its designs and purposes.

Now the same law that applies in the realm of the physical and intellectual applies also in the realm of the spiritual. There are so many departments of church work that thorough organization has become a necessity. The enemies of Christianity are organized against us. To meet this opposition, to battle against sin in all its various forms, requires organization. It is true, organization can be carried too far, converting everything into mere machine work. The church must guard against such a state of affairs. To be effective, organization must preserve *life* and *spirit*. Do not permit your church work to be turned into mere machinery. *Organize*—organize the children, the young people, the sisters, for effective work, but see to it that *formality* does not destroy the life and usefulness of your organization. Every Conference District should have an organization of ministers for the purpose of systematic Bible study, intellectual culture and to reduce their work to a system. Such an organization exists in the State of Indiana, and while we do not wish to give too much credit to this organization, we cannot but believe that the result in Indiana, as reported in the paper week after week, is at least partially due this organization.

MISSIONARY WORK.

A member of the Indiana Mission Board asks us to suggest a plan that will enable the Board to secure an agent in each congregation in the State of Indiana. Brethren, you already have such an agent. Every pastor, if he is true to his calling, is a representative of the missionary interests of his church. It has been our experience that where the minister is thoroughly converted to the cause of missions, there is no trouble to find an interested people in the work, and to collect money for such purposes becomes an easy matter. In an experience of fourteen years' pastoral labors, we have found very little difficulty in gathering money for missionary work. Let *pastors* become thoroughly interested in home mission work, and the *people* will be equally interested. Every pastor should consider himself the legal representative of the Mission Board in his state and preach, not less than one sermon each quarter on the subject, or have a regularly appointed missionary day in his church.

The missionary spirit is the spirit of Christ and missionary work is the work of Christ. The church that does not reach out beyond the circle of its own selfishness to help fallen humanity, will die, and ought to die. You *can live* to yourself if you will; you can create a little circle of your own, and live as if there were no other people in the world, but the individual or church that lives thus, will gradually ooze out its own existence, and the world will forget that such an individual or church ever *had* an existence. Your influence will reach no farther than the little circle prescribed by your own selfishness. Let us reach out and help our fellowmen. The church that does most for others, is doing the greatest good for itself. The real *life* of a church depends upon what it does for those *outside* its own communion. The real, genuine spirit of *giving*, true, Bible benevolence,—the missionary spirit of the Gospel—this keeps the fire of God's love bright and burning on the altar of the human heart.

At Marion, Indiana, a flourishing business town of 15000 inhabitants, the Mission Board, through brother J. M. Ritters, organized a church with *seventy-nine* members, and at a cost of little more than *fifty dollars*. Does missionary work pay? Let these facts answer. A similar work could be done in many other places, *if the funds were at command*. We can make no stronger appeal in behalf of this work

than the result at Marion itself makes. *Let it speak*. A stronger argument we cannot present than the demonstration of the fact of what can be done. Should not the knowledge of these possibilities appeal to every heart and arouse every pastor and his people to a proper sense of their duty and responsibility? If we were preaching in Indiana we would make the work at Marion the basis of a discourse, and appeal to the people for liberal donations with which to carry forward the work of missions in the State. The same argument applies to work everywhere. Let our Mission Boards take new courage, appeal to pastors, and through them infuse new life into our churches over the whole brotherhood. *Let there be a missionary revival* all along the line. "The harvest is great, the laborers are few," and we might add, "the funds are scarce."

APPEAL TO PASTORS AND PEOPLE.

Your special attention is called to the announcement on page 9 of this issue. The offer is limited to *new* subscribers. The publishers desire to add 1000 new names to the subscription list of the EVANGELIST; and thereby not only aid the paper financially but enlarge its field of usefulness. With the help of pastors, agents and people this work can be done. Let us make the effort. Cannot every minister in the brotherhood, assisted by the local agent, send us *five new subscriptions* at 90 cents to the end of the year, beginning April 1? This will make the 1000 and more. Now Brethren, we ask your help in the work. We are not *begging* for money to keep a dying institution alive a little longer, but we *beg your support* in behalf of an enterprise that has proven itself a *success* and therefore *deserves* your patronage. Let every pastor and agent go to work at once, and we believe that with the united efforts of pastor and people we can reach the 1000.

Many new members have been added to the church during the winter, and it is important that these new converts should read the church paper. It will be a great help to them in the way of development along the various lines of church work. It will keep them informed on the doings of the church at large and thus make them intelligent Christians. It will strengthen their faith, encourage them in the Master's service, and in many other ways make them more and more useful. *Get them to read the church paper. Now for one united effort for 1000 subscribers within the next fifteen days. Can we do it? WE CAN IF WE WILL. WILL WE?*